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EXAMINER	
CEHIC, KENAN	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2609	

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/714,490	CHASMAWALA ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Kenan Cehic	2609	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *14 November 2003*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-53* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☒ Claim(s) *38-53* is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1,3-22,25,29, 30-36* is/are rejected.

7)☒ Claim(s) *2,23,24,26-28 and 37* is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date *08/15/2005 and 05/02/2005* .
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1, 3, 4, 7-12, 16-19, 25, 30, 34, 35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Schmidt et al. (6,167,258).

For claim 1, Schmidt et al. teaches a communication network (see Figure 1), wherein the communication network comprises:

a plurality of network devices coupled to the communication network (see Figure 1; signal processing module, basic station and reference 60 are in a network) , wherein the plurality of network devices (see Figure 1 and column 5 lines 2-5; signal processing module and basic station are communicating) are operable to communicate with each other over the communication network devices (see Figure 1 and column 5 lines 2-5; signal processing module and basic station are communicating) by transmitting and receiving one or more data messages (see column 7 lines 26-38 and column 5 lines 2-12 & lines 26-34; data packets are sent from the signal processing module, via radio waves, to the base station and base station sends signals to signal processing module);

a first network device of the plurality of network devices (see Figure 1, see signal processing module), wherein the first

network device comprises at least one of one or more inputs (see column 4 line 66 through column 5 line 2) and one or more outputs (see column 5 lines 4-5) ; and

a second network device of the plurality of network devices (see Figure 1; basic station) wherein the second network device is coupled to a first computer system (see Figure 1 and column 5 lines 18-20; the basic station is coupled with a PC);

wherein a first data message of the one or more data messages (see column 7 lines 26-30 and column 5 lines 2-12; data packets are sent from the signal processing module to via radio frequency to the base station) comprises user configurable data (see column 5 lines 18-21, column 7 lines 16-30, column 8 lines 4-9, and column 15 lines 8-14; one can program the microcontroller, which produces/formats the digital stream of packets, in the signal processing module via the PC ; also see column 14 lines 40-50) wherein the user configurable data is configured using the first computer system (see column 5 18-21 and column 8 lines 4-9, via the base station and PC one can configure the microcontroller via software; software inherently needs to be composed by a human), wherein the first data message groups together one of a first of the one

or more inputs and a second of the one or more inputs (see column 7 lines 30 – 34; multiple input channels are grouped into a single packet)

For claim 3, Schmidt teaches wherein the user configurable data is configured using the first computer system (see column 5 lines 18-21, column 7 lines 19-30, column 8 lines 4-9; one can program the microcontroller, which produces/formats the digital stream of packets, in the signal processing module via the PC) using a graphical configuration tool

on the first computer system (see column 5 lines 18-21 and Figure 1, the PC is used for the reprogramming and it has a graphical configuration tool i.e. the monitor).

For claim 4, Schmidt teaches wherein each one of the plurality of network devices comprises one or more of a transmitter and a receiver (see column 5 lines 34-38) operable to said transmit and said receive the one or more data messages (see column 7 lines 26-30 and column 5 lines 2-12; data packets are sent from the signal processing module to the base station ; see column 8 lines 4-9, base station sends signal to signal processing module) .

For claim 7, Schmidt teaches wherein the first data message comprises one or more channels of analog data (see column 7 lines 30 – 34 and column 6 lines 5-9; multiple input channels are grouped into a single packet, and the inputs can be analog) , wherein each one of the one or more channels of analog data comprises at least one byte of data (see column 7 lines 24-27, note plurality of bytes).

For claim 8, Schmidt teaches wherein the first data message comprises one or more channels of discrete data (see column 7 lines 30 – 34 and column 7 lines 2-3; multiple input channels are grouped into a single packet, and the inputs can be digital) , wherein each one of the one or more channels of discrete data comprises at least one bit of data (see column 7 lines 24-27, note plurality of bytes).

For claim 9, Schmidt teaches wherein the first data message comprises one or more channels of analog data (see column 7 lines 30 – 34 and column 6 lines 5-9; multiple input channels are grouped into a single packet, and the inputs can be analog) ; wherein the first data message further comprises one or more channels of discrete data (see column 7 lines 30 – 34 and column 7 lines 2-3; multiple input channels are grouped into a single packet, and the inputs can be digital) ; and wherein the first data message is operable to combine one or more of the one or more channels of analog data and the one or more channels of discrete data (see column 7 lines 30 – 34, column 6 lines 5-9 , column 7 lines 2-3; multiple input channels are grouped into a single packet, and the inputs can be analog or digital) .

For claim 10, Schmidt teaches wherein the user configurable data is operable to be stored in a configuration file data (see column 5 lines 18-21, column 7 lines 19-30, column 8 lines 4-9; one can program the microcontroller, which produces/formats the digital stream of packets, in the signal processing module via the PC ; also see column 14 lines 40-50; it is inherent that a software program, and its associated files, is stored as a file); and wherein the configuration file is operable to be used by one or more applications on the first computer system (see column 5 lines 18-21, column 7 lines 19-30, column 8 lines 4-9; one can program the microcontroller, which produces/formats the digital stream of packets, in the signal processing module via the PC ; also see column 14 lines 40-50; it is inherent that a software program, and its associated files, is stored as a file and executed as a program) .

For claim 11, Schmidt teaches wherein the communication network (see Figure 1) comprises one or more of:
any other type of an industrial network (see Figure 1; wireless network is present).

For claim 12, Schmidt teaches a graphical program (see column 5 lines 39-43; the PC can display, monitor, analyze the data and program the signal processing module; it inherently needs graphical software to do display; also see Figure 1, the PC 60 has a display inteface) that is operable to communicate with one of the first network device and the second network device (see column 5 lines 18-21; the PC can program both the basic station and the single processing module, thus it communicates with them; it is done by software inherently);
wherein the first data message is operable to be received (see column 7 lines 26-30 and column 5 lines 2-12 and column 5 lines 38-43; data packets are sent from the signal processing module to via radio frequency to the base station and then to the PC) and processed by the graphical program (see column 5 lines 38-43; PC displays/analyzes the data).

For claims 16 and 34, Schmidt teaches wherein the graphical program (see column 5 lines 39-43; the PC can display, monitor, analyze the data and program the signal processing module; it inherently needs software to do this; also see Figure 1, the PC 60

has a display inteface) is operable to perform one or more of: a test and measurement function (see column 6 lines 29-36; measurements and tests are made)

For claims 17 and 35, Schmidt teaches wherein the graphical program is operable to be executed (see column 5 lines 39-43; the PC can display, monitor, analyze the data and program the signal processing module; it inherently needs executable software; also see Figure 1, the PC 60 has a display inteface).

For claim 18, Schmidt teaches an application program that is operable to communicate with one or more of the first network device and the second network device;
wherein the first data message is operable to be received and processed by the application program;
wherein the application program (see column 5 lines 39-43; the PC can display, monitor, analyze the data and program the signal processing module; it inherently needs software to do this; also see Figure 1, the PC 60 has a display interface) comprises a program created in one or more any other program development environment (see column 5 lines 39-43; the PC receives data from the basic station and displays it; it is inherent is needed to communication and displaying and it is also inherent that this software was developed in a program development environment).

For claim 19, Schmidt teaches wherein the first network device further comprises one or more modules (see Figure 3, this is the basic station of Figure 1);

wherein a first of the one or more modules on the first network device comprises a network interface (see Figure 3; note base receiver and transmitter), wherein the network interface is operable to communicate on the communication network by said transmitting (see column 5 line 38-43; base station can transmit) and said receiving the one or more data messages (see column 4 line 66 through column 5 line 12; the signal processing module sends packets to the receiving base station);
and wherein a second of the one or more modules on the first network device (see Figure 3; references 86, 861 and 64)
comprises at least one of the one or more inputs (see Figure 1 ; note reference 62 and column 5 lines 26-32; the computer is inputting programming information into the base station via interface 62) and the one or more outputs (see Figure 1 reference 64 and column 8 lines 16-19; interface 64 outputs data to PC) .

For claim 25, Schmidt teaches a flexible network system for network data transmission, wherein the data transmission occurs over a network, the flexible system comprising:
a first network device and a second network device(see Figure 1; signal processing module, basic station and reference 60 are in a network), wherein both the first network device and the second network device are coupled to the network(see Figure 1 and column 5 lines 2-5; signal processing module and basic station are communicating), wherein the
first network device and the second network device are operable to communicate with each other using the communication network by transmitting and receiving one or more

data messages(see column 7 lines 26-38 and column 5 lines 2-12 & lines 26-34; data packets are sent from the signal processing module, via radio waves, to the base station and base station sends signals to signal processing module), wherein the first network device comprises at least one of one or more

inputs (see column 4 line 66 through column 5 line 2) and one or more outputs (see column 5 lines 4-5), wherein the second network device comprises at least

one of one or more inputs (see Figure 3; see base receiver) and one or more outputs (see Figure 3; see base transmitter) ; and

a graphical configuration tool operable to configure contents of a first data

message of the one or more data messages(see column 5 lines 18-21, column 7 lines 19-30, column 8 lines 4-9; one can program the microcontroller, which produces/formats the digital stream of packets, in the signal processing module via the PC ; also see column 14 lines 40-50), wherein said configuring operates on both the

first network device and the second network device (see column 5 lines 26-34; both base station and signal processing module are reprogrammed) ;

wherein the first network device is operable to generate the first data message (see column 7 lines 26-38 and column 5 lines 2-12; data packets are sent from the signal processing module to via radio frequency to the base station),

wherein the first data message is operable to be propagated and received by the second network device (see column 7 lines 26-38 and column 5 lines 2-12; data packets are sent from the signal processing module to via radio frequency to the base station), wherein the first data message groups together one of a first of the one or

more inputs and a second of the one or more inputs (see column 7 lines 30 – 34; multiple input channels are grouped into a single packet).

For claim 30, Schmidt teaches a first computer system coupled to the network (see Figure 1; note PC 60 is connected to the base station); and

a graphical program, wherein the graphical program (see column 5 lines 39-43; the PC can display, monitor, analyze the data and program the signal processing module; it inherently needs software to do this; also see Figure 1, the PC 60 has a display interface; it has to be a graphical program to display data) is operable to communicate with one or more of the first network device and the second network device (see column 5 lines 18-21 and 39-43; the PC can display, monitor, analyze the data and program the signal processing module, through receiving by the base station; it inherently needs software to do this; thus it communicates wit both the signal processing module and base station); wherein the first data message is operable to be received (see column 7 lines 26-38 and column 5 lines 2-12 & lines 26-34; data packets are sent from the signal processing module, via radio waves, to the base station and base station sends signals to signal processing module by the graphical program) and processed by the graphical program (see column 5 lines 38-43; PC displays/analyzes the data).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are

such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham* v. *John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

5. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

6. Claims 5 and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schmidt et al. (6,167,258), hereinafter Schmidt, in view of Pewzner et al. (US 2007/0179366 A1)

For claim 5 and 27, Schmidt teaches all the claimed invention as described in paragraph 2. Schimdt does not teach that the inputs and outputs have digital and analog capabilities. Pewzner et al. from the same or similar field of endeavor teaches a device wherein each

one of the one or more inputs is operable to acquire one or more of analog and discrete data (see section 0185); and

wherein each one of the one or more outputs is operable to generate one or more of analog and discrete data (see section 0185).Thus it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include inputs and outputs have digital and analog capabilities as taught by Pewzner et al into the data acquisition system as taught by Schmidt. One could have implemented the A/D unit with analog/digital inputs and outputs as taught by Pewzner et al. into the signal processing module as taught by Schmidt. For example one could have replaced the input means and A/D converter as taught by Schmidt in Figure 2. The motivation, for claims 5 and 27, is that the device can receive digital and analog signals as suggested by Pewzner et al (section 0185), in order to extend capabilities.

7. Claims 6 and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schmidt et al. (6,167,258), hereinafter Schmidt, in view of Stoneking et al. (US 6,606,670 B1)

For claim 6, Schmidt et al teaches all the claimed invention as described in paragraph 2. Schmidt et al., additionally teaches wherein at least one of the one or more data messages comprises at least one channel of one or more (see column 7 lines 30 – 34; multiple input channels are grouped into a single packet) of analog data and discrete data (column 6 lines 5-9 and column 7 lines 2-3; input signals can be either analog or digital); and it is (see column 15 lines 5-8; see identification signal) identified the one or more channels in the first data message (see column 15 lines 5-8; input channels are identified). Schmidt

does not teach that this identification is sent with the message via an ID. Stoneking et al. from the same or similar field of endeavor teaches wherein the first data message comprises one or more message arbitration IDS (see column 18 lines 57-60; ID inside message identifies channel). Thus it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include an identification field in a message which identifies a channel as taught by Stoneking et al. into the data acquisition system as taught by Schmidt. One would have been able to the steps as shown in Figure 9 of Stoneking et al (where step 912 is the channel identification step) into the microcontroller of the signal processing module as taught by Schmidt in Figure 2. The motivation is that one has a specific identification of the channel that acquired the data, inside the message which actually carries the acquired data. Thus the receiving software/user is able to determine quickly to which input channel the data belongs.

8. Claims 13-15, 20, 31-33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schmidt et al. (6,167,258) in view of Kodosky et al. (5,475,851)

For claims 13-15, and 31-33 Schmidt teaches all the claimed invention as described in paragraph 2. However, Schmidt does not teach:

A plurality of interconnected nodes that visually indicate functionality of the graphical program, as recited in claim 13.

A block diagram portion and user interface, as recited in claim 14.

A graphical data flow program, as recited in claim 15.

Data logging, as recited in claim 20.

Kodosky et al. from the same or similar field of endeavor teaches :

For claims 13 and 31, Kodosky et al. teaches graphical program comprises a plurality of interconnected nodes (see Figure 22 and 43; note the interconnected nodes) that visually indicate functionality of the graphical program (see Figure 22 and 43; the nodes indicate the functionality of the program).

For claim 14 and 32, Kodosky et al. teaches graphical program comprises a block diagram portion (see Figure 3, Figure; Block diagram) and a user interface portion (see Figure 124).

For claims 15 and 33, Kodosky et al. teaches a graphical data flow program (see column 6 lines 10-16, also see title and Figure 43 and 158 for a graphical data flow program).

For claim 20, Kodosky et al. teaches where a device is used in data logging (see column 40 line 66 through column 41 line 2)

Thus it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made to incorporate the plurality of interconnected nodes that visually indicate functionality of the graphical program, a block diagram portion and user interface, and A graphical data flow program as taught by Kodosky et al. into the data acquisition system as taught by Schmidt. One could have installed the software (such as LabView) that provides those graphical features on the PC (Figure 1, reference 60 of Schmidt). One would have been able to install the needed software and possibly hardware to implement the software features as taught by Kodosky et al. The motivation, for claim 13-15 and 31-33, is that the user is able to read and adjust the values of variables during

program execution (see column 6 lines 11-16 of Kodosky et al.) and to visual the program flow.

The motivation for claim 20 is that one is able to save the results of data acquisitions

9. Claim 21 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schmidt et al. (6,167,258) in view of Haas et al. (US 7,098,037)

For claim 21, Schmidt et al. teaches all the claimed invention as described in paragraph 2. Schmidt et al. does not teach that the first device is capable of simulating a device. Tomlinson et al. from the same or similar field of endeavor teaches wherein a first network device is operable to simulate a production device (see column 11 lines 27-30). Thus it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made to incorporate the simulation device as taught by Haas et al. into the data acquisition system as taught by Schmidt et al. One could have implemented the calibration/instrument data as taught by Haas et al. via software in the microcontroller as taught by Schmidt in Figure 3, reference 86 and 861. This microcontroller and memory, can store software that simulates devices which would send simulated data to a PC, as in Figure 1 reference 60 as taught by Schmidt et al. The motivation is to minimize instrument-specific spectral attributes (see column 11 lines 21-23 of Haas et al).

10. Claims 22 and 36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schmidt et al. (6,167,258) in view of Tanzman et al. (US 7,032,029 B1).

For claim 22, Schmidt et al. teaches all the claimed invention as described in paragraph 2. Schmidt et al. does not teach updating inputs and outputs via message. Tanzman et al.

from the same or similar field of endeavor teaches wherein each one of the at least one of the one or more inputs (see column 21 lines 30-35; inputs are updated via a message) and the one or more outputs (see column 21 lines 30-35; outputs are updated via a message) can be updated by a network message (see column 21 lines 30-35; inputs/ outputs are updated via a message; see) by one or more of:

change of a state (see column 21 lines 24-30; the message is generated when scan has ended);

Thus it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made to combine the method of sending a message to update inputs and outputs as taught by Schmidt et al. into the data acquisition system as taught by Tanzman et al. One could have implemented the PLC, which implements the NOE 100, to generate a similar message. This PLC could have been implemented in the base station (see Figure 3 of Schmidt) and an additional Ethernet card that is adapted to transmit packets that the signal processing module understands. Thus one could update the inputs of the signal processing module via the network message. The motivation is that if the inputting means is finished with a scan, a remote station is able to provide or deny a command for a new scan (as suggested by Tanzman et al. see column 21 lines 26-30).

Allowable Subject Matter

11. Claim 2,23,24, 26-28, and 37 objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

For claim 2 and 26, while prior art teaches that a configuration message is sent in a configuration step, prior art fails to teach that all network devices in a network are able to send configuration messages which specify the content of messages.

For claims 23 and 37, prior art teaches that different channels can be transmitted via different mechanisms, however there is no motivation to combine the references.

For claim 24, prior art fails to teach that acquisition of an input and output triggers both the transmission of a second input and a second output data.

For claim 28, the prior art teaches combining output and inputs into one data message, however there is no motivation or suggestion to combine.

12. Claims 38-53 are allowed.

For claim 38, While it is well known in the art that there are user configurable message that either contain input or output data, prior art fails to teach a user configurable data message which includes both input and output data.

Conclusion

13. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

US-4,353,482 A	10-1982	Tomlinson et al.	222/1
US-4,813,009 A	03-1989	Tallman, James L.	703/21
US-4,868,785 A	09-1989	Jordan et al.	345/440
US-5,966,532 A	10-1999	McDonald et al.	717/105
US-6,584,419 B1	06-2003	Alexander, Jay A.	702/68
US-2006/0015862 A1	01-2006	Odom et al.	717/168

The above are cited to show system for data acquisition.

14. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kenan Cehic whose telephone number is (571) 270-3120. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday 7:30AM to 5:00PM (EST).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dang Ton can be reached on (571) 272-3171. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

KC

TOM

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SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER